REMARKS

Claims 20-24 have been canceled and the subject matter thereof has been presented for examination in pending divisional Application No. 10/701,633. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-19 and 25 are all the claims pending in the application.

The Examiner has objected to the abstract as allegedly being longer than 150 words.

Applicants have amended the abstract to comply with the grounds of objection. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended abstract fully complies with 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b) and MPEP §608.01(b) and it is requested that the objection to the Abstract be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In paragraph 4, claims 1-2, 5-8, 13-17, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tomohito (English Machine Translation of JP 2000-267086), as evidenced by Nakamura et al. (Derwent Abstract of JP 2002-234111).

In paragraph 6, claims 3-4, 9-10, and 18-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tomohito, as evidenced by Nakamura et al. ("Nakamura").

In paragraph 7, claims 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tomohito as applied to claims 1-10, 13-19, and 25, as evidenced by Nakamura et al. ("Nakamura"), further in view of Shi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,693,956 ("Shi") as evidenced by Misono et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,070,749 ("Misono").

The Examiner asserts that Tomohito has a resin sheet containing dispersed particles, which have an average particle diameter between 0.01 μm and 10 μm, in an epoxy resin layer which comprises a diffuser having a high refractive index and an epoxy resin having a low

refractive index in a 1:2 ratio. Additionally, the Examiner asserts that Nakamura teaches an aluminum film with oxygen permeability of 0.5 cc/m2.24h.atm or less.

The above rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention of independent claims 1, 7, and 16 is directed to a resin sheet containing dispersed particles, which comprises a hard coat layer, an epoxy resin layer comprising 100 parts by weight of an epoxy resin and up to 200 parts by weight of a diffuser having a refractive index different from that of the epoxy resin and having an average particle diameter of from 0.2 to 100 μm, wherein the diffuser localizes so as to have a concentration distribution in the direction of the thickness of the epoxy resin layer.

Tomohito discloses an epoxy resin having a fluorine group therein applied to a substrate to form a resin layer, a mixed resin layer which is prepared by mixing an acrylic resin and the epoxy resin in a 1:2 ratio, is formed on the resin layer, and a reflective electrode is formed on the mixed layer. In Tomohito, the constitution of the layers is:

substrate/epoxy resin layer/mixed resin layer/reflective electrode.

On the contrary, Applicants claim a resin sheet comprising a hard coat layer and an epoxy resin layer, wherein the diffuser is localized in the epoxy resin layer. The diffuser localizes so as to have a concentration distribution in the direction of thickness of the epoxy resin layer. Moreover, claim 1 calls for a reflecting layer comprising a thin metal layer; claim 7 calls for an inorganic gas barrier layer, and claim 16 recites the presence of a gas barrier layer and a color filter layer. Applicants respectfully submit that Tomohito does not disclose or suggest a resin

sheet having the constitution of the resin sheet claimed in any of Applicants' claims 1, 7 or 16. Therefore, Tomohito does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention.

Additionally, none of Applicants' independent claims would have been obvious in view of Tomohito, as evidenced by Nakamura. In addition to the structural/compositional differences pointed out above, it is evident that in Tomohito, a light-scattering layer is formed on a substrate, whereas in the present invention the light-scattering functions are in the substrate itself.

Further, Applicants submit that the presently claimed invention provides unexpectedly thin and lightweight liquid crystal displays as compared with Tomohito. As exemplified in Table 1, Examples 1-4 as compared with Comparative Examples 1 and 2, provide liquid crystal displays with improved visibility. That is, Applicants' claimed invention provides displays in which the picture has reduced yellowish tint and the white picture has reduced glittering.

Applicants' claimed invention comprises resin sheets containing dispersed particles in which the resin sheets are thin and lightweight and have excellent mechanical strength. By incorporating a diffuser in the epoxy resin layer, a liquid crystal cell can be produced which has a light-diffusing layer in a position close to the liquid crystal display. Consequently, the image blurring caused by viewing angle differences or by shading can be prevented which greatly improves visibility.

Additionally, Applicants' claimed invention comprising a reflecting layer or inorganic gas barrier layer is characterized by having a satisfactory gas barrier function, a small yellowness index change, and excellent heat resistance.

Further, Applicants' claimed invention comprising a color filter does not include a step in which a multilayer structure comprising a hard coat layer, gas barrier layer, and epoxy resin layer is peeled from the substrate before a color filter layer is superposed thereon. As a result, position shifting is less likely to occur in the patterning for color filter formation, and a color filter-bearing resin sheet containing dispersed particles can be efficiently obtained with high accuracy.

In view of the above, Applicants' claimed invention would not be obvious over Tomohito alone or Tomohito further in view of Shi.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the § 102 and § 103 rejections.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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